



Eddie A. Perez, Mayor

## **Mayor Perez Names Appointees to The Board of Education,** **Mayor will serve as Chair**

(December 5, 2005)--- Hartford Mayor Eddie A. Perez announced today that pursuant to new provisions in the City Charter, he has selected two new individuals to serve on the Hartford Board of Education. He will also join the Board and serve as Chair. Ada Miranda and Israel Flores, who are presently serving as Mayoral appointees, will continue serving at this time.

The two new appointees are Pamela M. Richmond and David M. MacDonald. Ms. Richmond, of Buckingham Street in Hartford, is an engineer and Product Line Manager for Commercial Engines with Pratt & Whitney. She is graduate of Trinity College and active in numerous community organizations including: The Urban League of Greater Hartford, Nutmeg Big Brothers & Big Sisters, The Amistad Foundation and the Hartford Chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers. The Mayor has nominated her to a term expiring January 31, 2008.

Mr. MacDonald, of Grandview Terrace in Hartford, is the Director of Communications for the Connecticut Association for Community Action, Inc. He has been very active in a number of parent advocacy organizations including the Hartford Parent Network and the Hartford Children First Initiative. David, a graduate of Boston University, has been nominated to a term expiring January 31, 2008.

Mayor Perez say, "I want to express my gratitude to Ada Miranda and Israel Flores for staying on the Board to assist me with the challenging agenda we have ahead for improving the quality of the education our children receive. I would also like to thank Eleese Wright who is stepping down from the Board. Her leadership and hard work on behalf of the children of Hartford and her contributions will be missed. Pamela and David will bring considerable talent and experience to the Board and I know they are going to be strong advocates for the children of Hartford."

Mayor Perez goes on to say, "This is a critical time for the Board of Education. The new Board will face numerous tough choices on issues including; the expiration of the superintendent's contract, significant litigation pending against the state based on equitable funding issues and continuing questions on how to best implement Sheff v. O'Neil. By serving as Chair, I hope to insure all these tough choices are made without distractions that could undermine our efforts to provide the best possible education for our children. Though this is a first for Hartford, other towns and cities like New Haven have the Mayor serve on the Board of Education. This builds a critical link between the school system and the city government that funds it."

"There has to be a renewed sense of urgency in our school system about creating a safe orderly learning environment in our schools and a dramatic acceleration in our efforts to prepare our children to successfully enter and complete a four-year college program. I will convene a task force made up of staff, Board members and administrators to report back in 60 days on how our safety and discipline procedures can be improved and what new policies we should adopt. Additionally, I will convene a task force to report back on ways we can speed the implementation of the Blue Ribbon Commission report on Higher Education. We need to continually raise expectations for our kids and insure that we are opening the doors of educational opportunity every day," says Mayor Perez.